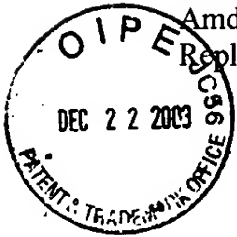


Appl. No. 09/585,166
Amdt. dated December 19, 2003
Reply to Office Action of September 29, 2003



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this Amendment and Response to Office Action, and Petition for Extension of Time, along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed, is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

12/19/03 _____
Date



Susanne Hollinger



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 09/585,166
Applicant : Merrick R. Almond
Filed : June 1, 2003

Confirmation No. 6186

TC/A.U. : 1744
Examiner : David A. Redding

Docket No. : 04674.105060
Customer No. : 20786

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TC 1700

Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

December 19, 2003

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

In response to the Office Action of September 29, 2003, please amend the above-referenced application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper. Claims 14 and 33-60 have been cancelled and claims 1-4 and 13 have been amended herein.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 9 of this paper.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR 1.8a)

I hereby certify that this Amendment and Response to Office Action, along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed, is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

12/19/03
Date


Susanne Hollinger